

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (CANCELLED)

Claim 8. (NEW) A thread guide device for a sewing machine comprising:

a needle;

a needle clamp having a thread guide for guiding an upper thread;

threading means for clamping the upper thread to the thread guide;

thread holding portion which is capable of holding an upper thread, and

thread transfer means for transferring the upper thread to the vicinity of a needle eye by lowering said thread holding portion,

wherein said threading means further comprising:

a needle clamp thread guiding member which guides the thread to the thread guide by rotating a thread guiding arm, said needle clamp thread guiding member being rotatable and positioned before an upper thread stretched from above by lowering the thread holding portion, and

a thread guiding transmitting means for rotating the needle clamp thread guiding member so that the upper thread, being guided to the needle clamp thread guide, is clamped upon the needle clamp thread guide,

further wherein after the thread holding portion is lowered beneath a position of the thread guiding arm, said needle clamp thread guiding member is rotated by driving the thread guiding transmitting means with a driving force that is commonly used for lowering the thread holding portion.